

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 DRC-01 AID-20 /105 W

----- 063624

R 230945Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 199

INFO USCINCEUR, VAIHINGEN, GERMANY

S E C R E T MONROVIA 6381

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PINR, LI

SUBJECT: AFL APPARENTLY FORMING SMALL ELITE UNIT

USCINCEUR FOR J-7, J-2

1. CHIEF USMM HAS REPORTED TO EMBASSY VISITS BY COMMANDING GENERAL, G-2 AND G-3, TO FIRST AND SECOND INFANTRY BATTALIONS ON 13-14 NOVEMBER AND NOTED US ADVISORS WERE NOT INVITED TO ACCOMPANY THEIR COUNTERPARTS NOR DIRECTLY INFORMED OF THE VISIT, A RATHER UNUSUAL SITUATION.

2. US ADVISOR TO FIRST BATTALION VISITED BATTALION AND WAS GIVEN EVASIVE ANSWERS CONCERNING ONGOING TRAINING. NEXT DAY SAME ADVISOR VISITED SECOND BATTALION AND OBSERVED: (A) SPECIAL COMPANY ENTITLED ALERT FORCE COMPANY CONSISTING OF TWO, FORTY-MAN RIFLE PLATOONS, ONE HEAVY WEAPONS PLATOON AND A COMPANY HEADQUARTERS. ADVISOR NOTED OBVIOUSLY HANDPICKED OFFICERS HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED FROM OTHER DUTIES TO THIS UNIT. (B) IN ATTEMPTING TO LEARN WHY UNIT WAS CONDUCTING INTENSIFIED COMBAT TRAINING, US OFFICER WAS TOLD QTE FOR NO SPECIFIC PURPOSE UNQTE. (C) UNIT HAS SEPARATE TRAINING SCHEDULE FROM BATTALION. SUBJECTS BEING TAUGHT INCLUDE HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT, SURVIVAL, ESCAPE AND EVASION, NIGHT PATROLLING, LAWS OF LAND WARFARE AND CAMOUFLAGE TECHNIQUES. ADVISOR NOTED THESE SUBJECTS WERE A DEVIATION FROM THE PREVIOUSLY PLANNED TRAINING FOR THIS WEEK.

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3. WITH COMPANY AT FIRST BATTALION AND COMPANY AT SECOND

BATTALION, MILMISH SPECULATES PROVISIONAL BATTALION IS BEING FORMED AND MILITARY ADVISOR CONCLUDES UNIT IS BEING TRAINED FOR QTE SOME CONTINGENCY UNQTE.

4. CHIEF USMM, BASED ON THIS AND OTHER AVAILABLE INFORMATION, BELIEVES CHIEF OF STAFF IS PREPARING PROVISIONAL BATTALION FOR POSSIBLE PEACEKEEPING SERVICE IN MID-EAST.

5. WE DO NO PRECLUDE THIS POSSIBILITY BUT ALSO SUGGEST AFL MAY BE FORMING SMALL, HIGHLY TRAINED ELITE UNIT SEPARATE FROM EXECUTIVE MANSION GUARD FOR USE IN INTERNAL SECURITY, RIOT CONTROL, ETC. IT WAS INTERESTING AND PERHAPS WORTH NOTE THAT US ADVISORS HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY EXCLUDED FROM THIS OPERATIONS. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, MILMISH HERE NORMALLY HAS CLOSE, INTIMATE CONTACT WITH AFL FROM CHIEF OF STAFF ON DOWN AND THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT DEFINITELY IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THAT RELATIONSHIP. MANFULL

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